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TORN AWAY

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and indefinitely — jailing
Cambodian refugees? A
traumatized community
demands answers.
BY HOLLY OTTERBEIN

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✚ TRAIN POSITION

SEPTA's new Silverliner V vehicles have been plagued with production problems at a basic-like level. But the other day we boarded one on the Manayunk/Skyway line, and it was so silently so fast, with its **cleverly quiet and video cameras that** were so in-tune promotional video from the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corp.

Then the video came on again... and again... on an audio loop... played so slowly but **clearly not created that way**... also playing Philly to its own multi-hour customers. Just 10 minutes of the same heavily edited images of scenic city sites was enough to make one a little nuts.

Andy Skorge, communications director of the Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers, was interested to hear about the GPTMC video "SEPTA has been running only their information on the Schuylkill V screen that I've been on," Skorge wrote in an email. "Believe it or not, it's probably a good sign that SEPTA is now running the GPTMC video, no matter how **hasty or homicidal it makes riders and commuters feel**. Hopefully the GPTMC is paying a decent amount of money toward running the ads."

GPTMC does have a media buy with SEPTA, but this video is not a hard sell on it, so **technically it was provided for free**, something to GPTMC's Chris Schindler.

So what are the plans for the video screens in the future? "Real-time news, weather and some train information," said Skorge, who represents Schuylkill County Transit. "What kind?" Like SEPTA, **perhaps the regional rail and things like that**, she explained. Sounds like sparkling stuff for commuters who have to wait.

even SEPTA gets the 100 or so new Silverliner Vs it still wants out of the 220 it ordered back in 2006.

—Theresa Everline

✚ THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN

As cyclist Binky McKee rides on the sidewalk along Rittenhouse Square, he was one between pedestrians. Then—oh no—he gets **hit by a car** so he's crossing 10th Street.

"Whoops!" Michael Highland says, hitting a button to start over. Highland is one of the creators of Binky, the main character of Binky City Cycle, the past-released *Philly/Phil* game in which a **player guides Binky on his road-gear bike** through Philly. After each successful move, Binky throws a party, thereby blowing more of his trust fund. The goal is to reach zero dollars.

"I don't have a fear—I think **they're crazy**," Highland notes while sitting in front of Binky City. Then, which is not in the game, a **player can see Michael McKee** in **there**, too, although Highland admits that most of her bar's guests are simply people and places that artist Keith McKee knows and likes.

Despite some clever marketing tactics to get your 100 on point and so on (included in the game), Apple didn't prominently feature Binky City Cycle as its star in the game's launch-day. "Apple doesn't do a good job of **exposing everything equally**," Highland says ruefully.

But it's fun to see the local landmarks and the light nature of the **hipster community** as embodied by Binky. And when it's his number one fan? Highland smiles. "My mom named it."

—Theresa Everline



man overboard!
By Jason Thompson

IN THE MUCK

EVERY NOW AND THEN, it happens that the murky waters of state politics are elegantly reduced to clear places and down to earth, when an investigating grand jury released a 120-page report on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) that depicts the oversight of gambling in Pennsylvania as rotten to the core.

Where to begin? How about with the creation of the PGCB's staff, a process that showed politicians to support whatever they pleased—including in a position by Sen. Robert Melton (who announced his retirement shortly before his office was visited by the House of Gaming Commissioner Nelson Coleman, a former lawyer for reputedly corrupt local politicians, an applicant for a casino in Berks County). So why might he say, after Melton's chief of staff submitted that his own resignation to Mount Airy Casino Resort's license?

Then there's what the report describes as ineptly handled by PGCB officials to "conduct" reports by their own investigators into the backgrounds of casino applicants. Former chief enforcement counsel Michael Schweyer, acknowledge the report, at one point told investigators, "I don't go to take people and companies as they are and look and make them suitable." The grand jury found ample evidence that reports were tampered with and shot dead before ever reaching board members.

Then there were what gaily some look like the last job of one Dan Shiffer, a PGCB lawyer assigned to handle the application for a competitor to the Mount Airy casino. Shiffer allegedly stated instead to be transferred to the Mount Airy case. When a boss of Mount Airy's casino maintenance told one PGCB employee claims she found Shiffer at Shiffer's desk. Shiffer who was also a "liaison" in Commissioner [Raymond] Augelli's "during closed-door meetings about the Mount Airy casino. And allegedly made more than 90 calls while employed by the board's Las Vegas. The casino's manager after her father was charged for perjury. Last March a month after Shiffer resigned, telling the business newspaper was "totally unimpressed" with the report, says, he began working for the firm representing Mount Airy. Its later became the casino's was president.

The revelations go on, and on, and on—explore the operations of the PGCB, which, according to Gregory T. H., struggled off the report, claiming that it "isn't worth the cost."

• Jason Thompson would prefer to be elegantly reduced to clear places and down to earth, when an investigating grand jury released a 120-page report on the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB) that depicts the oversight of gambling in Pennsylvania as rotten to the core.

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"You Can Learn" from "You Can't Learn" (left) and "You Can't Learn" (right)

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Reform efforts could set off a stampede.

a DROP entry date or start date into the future," insists Patricia S. Bell, executive director of the Board of Pensions and Retirement. For the past dozen years, Bell says, only about 1 percent of more than 6,000 employees taking DROP have exercised their right to schedule a future sign-up date. And when they did, it usually involved only a matter of months.

Applicants, he adds, still have to meet the minimum retirement age (at least 45 for police and firefighters, and at least 55 for non-uniformed employees) and have at least 10 years of service when they sign up for future DROP benefits.

"It's a change in behavior by the applicants," Bell notes, but "the policy has always been that it's never been prohibited."

Joe Boyle, an attorney who has studied DROP at City Paper's request, says the future sign-up option may represent an "end run" by the pension board to get around any attempts to eliminate or reform the program.

And reform efforts could set off a stampede. Council staff followed a strawman, just last week warning that more than 300 made employees eligible to enter DROP.

The stampede could already be underway. City Paper filed records requests seeking the names of all employees who had signed up for the DROP since Feb. 1, 2010. The city responded with a list of 510 employees who had signed up for \$24 million worth of benefits, or an average of \$164,000 each. But Bell said "that number was not all-inclusive" and that "the real numbers are probably at least double that."

He also said that the number of employees who had signed up for the future DROP — 33 — was also "not all-inclusive," adding, "I would suspect there would be more than that group of people."

Bell said the pension board would release inclusive records sometime this week. City Council is scheduled to hold public hearings on DROP on June 8.

Mark McDonald, the mayor's press secretary, declined comment on the future sign-up option, saying only, "We look forward to the hearings and we hope that the council will listen to us better angle and do the right thing and end the program."

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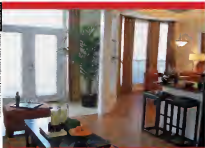
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by TOM TOMORROW

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Planning—50 Before-50 After

Is the government un-constitutionally — and indefinitely — jailing **Cambodian refugees**? A traumatized community demands answers.

BY HOLLY J. FERREIN

TORN AWAY





Chally Dang

has made a few mistakes in his life—but the biggest was being born at the wrong time.

If he had waited a couple of years, he would have been a citizen of the United States, and thus would've enjoyed all the rights and privileges therein. Instead, he came to this country as an 18-month-old baby, growing up not long as an American but not, technically speaking, an American—a distinction that makes his current situation possible.

Dang first spent most of the last year as an American jail, though he's been charged with no crime. What's more, his stay has been no indefinite detention, a concept normally outside of American law, and subject to the whims of a federal bureaucracy that's asserted its right to hold him as long as it deems him a public threat—even though the state bureaucracy allowed him to live free for the last seven years.

And all the while, he's waited deportation "back" to a country he's never seen.

Although his parents are from Cambodia, Dang himself was born in 1993 in Thailand, in a refugee camp. His parents had fled there to escape their own government, the Khmer Rouge, which, under the leadership of dictator Pol Pot, massacred an estimated

2 million Cambodians in just a few short years in its effort to eliminate "enemies" of the state. The hardest-targeted individuals, the handicapped and disabled women, unmarried men, and employed men, tactics in killing people alive and forcing them to die their own graves.

Dang's mother, father and three brothers escaped escape by crossing the border into neighboring Thailand and running from one squatted refugee camp to another while dodging attacks by communist guerrillas. As they waited for a new country to take them in, Dang was born. In 1983, the U.S. welcomed his family in to the country as refugees under a resettlement program, and they became legal permanent residents shortly thereafter.

The Dang family eventually settled into the Olney neighborhood, a part of Philadelphia that quickly became dotted with dozens of Cambodian-owned stores, restaurants and homes as thousands of other Khmer Rouge refugees joined them in America throughout the '80s. Philly is now home to one of the nation's largest Cambodian populations.

The story of that community is, in some ways, a classic American dream come true: fleeing violence and oppression, the Cambodian refugees joined in America, safety, opportunity and hard-work, working-class success.

They've also found themselves in a literal legal predicament. Unlike most Americans, these immigrants are granted no trials and require no convictions before being detained. Nor does the traditional right against being punished twice for the same crime ("double jeopardy") apply. Old offenses—for which detainees have already served time—are being used against them.

Nor does it appear, according to records reviewed by *City Paper*, that they have been granted even that most fundamental of democratic rights: habeas corpus, or the right against indefinite detention.

Community members and human-rights groups denounce these policies, calling them inhumane and in violation of basic American principles. Which means, in any of Philly's Cambodian-led think tanks and others have become informal leaders in the country's political imagination as well.

The Obama administration, says Min-Hsin Korman, a Philadelphia Cambodian community activist, "thinks they have to show they're still tough as Vietnam's lions." But they'll have to face the consequences of supporting families and breaking hearts.

If the first defining

moment of Dang's life—being born in a refugee camp to parents fleeing for their lives—was lucky, the second was, he readily acknowledges, a terrible mistake.

Life in the U.S. was better, but not as good. Shortly after Dang was born, his father abandoned the family. His mother spoke no English, and Dang and his siblings grew up poor. "Philly became the common enemy for us," says Dang, because it was "readily available and easy to capture." Dang absorbed violence at school and at home, and fell in with tough crews. He and his friends—other Asian immigrants and refugee kids—morphed into a gang.

The gang went some day in 1997, when Dang was 15. His windstorm North Philly with a friend, when they were spotted

Dang was taken into custody and sent to prison to await deportation, all because of a 12-year-old felony conviction for which he's already served his time.

But now, every time Dang looks away, that dream is under attack by the very government that extended a hand to his parents of greatest need—and they held up Dang as a blessing example.

On Sept. 23, 2010, Dang was taken into custody by federal officials and sent to prison to await deportation in Cambodia, a country he's never stepped foot in—although he's already served time and since which he's committed no other crime. Dang and other legal immigrants—some of them refugees, like him—born in Philly and elsewhere have found themselves crunched in the middle of a new push by the Obama administration to deport more "criminal alien" than in the history of the country—a move many see as a good-faith gesture to conservatives.

ted by a conviction. Their criminal backgrounds and records at their own disposal, and law firms handed him a gun.

"I suddenly found a few friends in their proximity," he says. "Some were injured, but Dang was later apprehended and charged with aggravated assault, criminal conspiracy and possessing criminal instruments, and sentenced to five-and-a-half years in prison. He writes in a letter from a New York, Pa., detention center that he still feels remorse for firing the gun—"regret," he says, is part of "it shows that hands are to my past."

He got out of prison in 2003, when he was 21 years old. Since then, he hasn't committed another crime. Indeed, Dang, according to those close to him, emerged from prison and from his troubled past as a better man. He stayed straight, got married, had kids. Now 26, he's in all-around "family man" mode, says, with few children and a steady job as a trucker, reading novels. Within an immigrant community, still struggling with the challenges of inner-city life and the absence of fathers, Dang became an example of a man who well who turned his life around and

PHOTOGRAPH BY JIM WATKINS FOR TIME

PHOTO: JASON PHILLIPS/CITY PHOTOGRAPHY.NET

reads the best of its second chance.

Nina Akland, chair of Mayor Michael Nutter's Commission on Asian American Affairs, has met Deng and his family and officers. "Deng's completely made himself."

Nonetheless, eight years after his release, the government has agreed to leave Deng deported.

In 1996, Congress passed a group of bills that made deportation a requirement for any immigrant — legal or not — who was convicted of "aggravated felony," a vague term that includes everything from nonviolent drug offenses to sex crimes. These laws also revolved non-citizen immigrants ineligible for forgiveness or individual case intervention before a court.

Members of the Cambodian refugee community, advocates say, didn't comprehend the impact of the law as it first. After all, even following the Vietnam War and the fall of the Khmer Rouge, the U.S. didn't return a single Cambodian refugee until 2000, three years after Deng's conviction.

At first, the U.S. deported only a very small number of Cambodians each year. But then, in 2003, the Obama administration deported 180,000 convicted criminals — more than the country ever had before — including some Cambodian refugees. Though Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will not release detailed data on 2010 removals until August, Cambodian organizations around the country say that 2010 saw record deportations. And they expect even more.

Cause activists like the Obama administration's new strategy. Bob Deane, a spokesman for the right-wing Federation for American Immigration Reform, argues that immigrants — even refugees — ought to be held to a "higher standard" than U.S. citizens, and therefore, if they commit a felony, should be deported. "The higher status is never guaranteed," he says. "It's granted."

The administration has also billed its effort as a sensible and humane use of resources. The idea is to round up bad guys and leave the good guys alone. "We're focusing on limited resources and people on violent offenses and people convicted of crimes," Obama said through a speech on immigration in May. "Not just criminals, not just folks who are just looking to scrape together an income."

But when U.S. law

weighs on the details of a potential deportee's life, the difference isn't always obvious.

Herold Oet, an ICE spokesman, says the agency must deport people "whose serious criminal histories mean they would pose a significant threat to the local community," but that it doesn't apply to Deng, say his family and friends — nor does it apply, they insist, to other Cambodian detainees in Philadelphia.

In the same week in September 2010 that ICE picked up Deng and sent him to prison, he was joined by three other Cambodians from Philly: Mut in Vannay Vea and Davy Pheme.

Their stories are remarkably similar: They are all refugees who fled the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. The oldest, he was 17 when he arrived at the U.S. Many were poor, mostly single



All four were stuck in prison awaiting deportation for more than six months.

members, and lived in violent neighborhoods.

They also all committed crimes as the '90s teenagers or young adults, and are now facing deportation as a result of those crimes. Also like Deng, they've changed — before getting locked up, they all had legitimate and steady jobs. Three of the four have children. It had been easy business, a popular barbershop in Philly.

"That's not all they have to do in prison. All four spent more than six months in prison awaiting deportation — a length of detention that may violate U.S. law."

"The U.S. cannot detain anyone without a purpose, regardless of their immigration status," says Valerie Burk of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, adding that there are only a few valid reasons to jail immigrants awaiting deportation past six months: if they're extremely violent, com-

monly ill or have pending terrorism charges.

The case Zadydas v. Davis, the 2001 case of a Lithuanian immigrant whom the U.S. had held in deportation custody for half a year while trying to find a country that would take him. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that if no immigrant only in jail for longer than six months awaiting deportation, it's the government's duty to prove that the removal will happen in the "foreseeable future" or that the person presents an "extreme threat."

ICE has used the vagueness of both criteria to hold all four of the Philadelphia Cambodians in prison for six months, according to documents provided to City Paper. Vea, Pheme and I-11 all served in Cambodia during the past two weeks, after each waiting for about eight months in detention.

According to those documents, it appears that the four men were detained, essentially because of a paperwork problem. ICE is currently working with the government of Cambodia on ensuring a travel document — an ICE official wrote to Deng in February. Likewise, in March, ICE wrote to I-11. A travel document — is still pending."

PHOTO: JASON PHILLIPS/CITY PHOTOGRAPHY.NET

"I'd like to know what the government's definition of 'imminent' is. They said their removal was imminent in January."

PHOTO: JEFFREY M. HARRIS/REUTERS

ICE officials have argued that they can suppress the local off-
 upes for longer than six months because their trip to Cambodia
 will be happening in the "imminent" future, and because they
 are a "threat to society." Spokesman Ori explained simply,
 "Detention is used to ensure the safety of the public."

Community activist Korman calls these arguments propa-
 ganda. "I'd like to know what their definition of 'imminent' is.
 They said their removal was imminent in January. It's May."

Like many other immigrants, he has been held for longer than
 the six-month limit upheld by the Supreme Court in *Padilla*.
 That six-day survey of ICE detainees in six detention facilities
 conducted by the Migration Policy Institute in 2009 showed
 that 9 percent had been in jail for more than six months. Many
 detainees, lawyers say, never challenge their imprisonment
 in court. Of the four Cambodian men, only one hired a lawyer
 — the rest, their families say, decided to wait their money for
 their uncertain futures in Cambodia.

Meanwhile, even as the government claims that its indefinite
 detentions are legal, Congress is considering a law that would
 explicitly let ICE detain immigrants for longer than six months

in a housing on the bill last week, a lawyer for the ACLU said
 it would "result in the unnecessary detention of thousands
 more individuals."

As for the "threat to society" that ICE had claimed the four
 posed, one clearly is innocent because the others, as relatives
 know. Three of the four had already been out of prison for years,
 years or more (immigrant detainees often reoffend) and had

never been charged with a another crime. In
 was picked upon a single ICE charge.

Detainees stuck in detention are unable to
 work, earn money or support their families
 as *hardworking* immigrants. It's *hard*. Cf.
 Vargheese, gone from a daughter just three
 months before he was detained. "It's heart-
 breaking that she didn't get to know her father,
 and she won't even," says Vargheese. "We'll
 guess she'll know him over the Internet and
 the phone..." she adds, trailing off.

Dang's wife, Ros Cruz, feels his boy girl
 shortly after Dang was imprisoned. During
 jail visits, she says, "He can't even hold her."

At the beginning of 2011, the four relatives
 wrote to ICE, begging the agency to either
 release them back into the community or
 deport them to Cambodia. But ICE refused.

In a comment of hope, local Cambodians

congratulate rights activists and community allies over opposition
 to ICE, demanding that the government end the detention of its
 entire country could accept them. They collected nearly 1,000
 signatures — in a week.

ICE officials, the *Washington Post* has reported, provide basic
 personal information to detainees' loved ones. More than a week
 ago, Cruz found out — and then ICE officials but from Dang's cell
 mate — that Dang had been removed from the York detention
 prison. Then, after days of not knowing his exact whereabouts
 and ICE officials not returning her calls, Cruz learned Monday
 night that Dang had been put on a plane. Now she's left to worry
 incessantly that he might be stuck in Cambodian, where newly
 arrived deportees often face custody and are started for money.

"They're scared," she says of ICE.
 Community activist Korman, who had been accompany-
 ing Cruz on her trip to visit Dang, is more blunt about how
 she feels the current administration has treated their fellow
 Cambodians: "To the government, they're dirt."

(Daily after the effort paper set)

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Alas, *Wonderful Day* never quite leaves the gate.

as rehearse mistakes, virtuoso physical stunts. Not every one of these 70-and-mostly-70 plays is a winner. And even the best of them repeat exceptional production to realize the original, embedded in music, which nearly always include some awareness of a particular kind of Englishness. I've seen highly polished British companies that didn't get it; the Americans, it's even harder.

Which brings us to *Wilson Theater's* production of *My Wonderful Day*, in which a very pregnant Afro-Caribbean teenage woman brings her 9-year-old daughter, Winona, with her to work in the busy London house of two glamorous actresses whose misadventure is a rocky play. Winona is meant to sit quietly and finish her school essay—about her “wonderful day.” Of course, there's more going on in the house than anyone is prepared.

The ingredients promise a near-perfect setup, including the obvious potential for adult characters who are far more childish than the actual child. More intriguing still is the opportunity to play with the strange ways generations interact with kids—sometimes failing to notice them, sometimes believing them ungratefully, occasionally overlooking us if the children were city-baby therapists. Sounds like comedy gold!

Alas, *Wonderful Day* never quite leaves the gate. The tone is an odd mix of gentle humor and up-roaring farce, and there's too much of setup for what ultimately is a weak payoff. The Wilson production challenges one big win: Larissa Houston, a young white in the role of Winona, manages to be convincingly shalike and conquer the role's nuance: she's totting doshington. Also very good is Kate Eastmond Morris, who negotiates *Wonderful Day* with just the right blend of Ayokoun, energy. But the overall staged production lacks the play's essential comic bite.

At 70, as anyone who's been happy in love for 40 years will tell you, every day will be wonderful. Through June 18, 830-955, Wilson Theater 265 & Broad St., 823-045 703-4, wiltontheatre.org.

(L: photojournal.com)

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FRIDAY 6/3
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SATURDAY 6/4
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SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
SHINDIE FM

TUESDAY 6/7
SHINDIE FM

WEDNESDAY 6/8
SHINDIE FM

THURSDAY 6/9
SHINDIE FM

FRIDAY 6/10
SHINDIE FM

SATURDAY 6/11
SHINDIE FM

SUNDAY 6/12
SHINDIE FM

Kildare's

THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
SHINDIE FM

TUESDAY 6/7
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SHINDIE FM

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THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
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MONDAY 6/6
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SHINDIE FM

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THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
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THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
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SUNDAY 6/5
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THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
SHINDIE FM

TUESDAY 6/7
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SHINDIE FM

THURSDAY 6/9
SHINDIE FM

FRIDAY 6/10
SHINDIE FM

SATURDAY 6/11
SHINDIE FM

SUNDAY 6/12
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THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
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MONDAY 6/6
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MONDAY 6/6
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TUESDAY 6/7
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THURSDAY 6/9
SHINDIE FM

FRIDAY 6/10
SHINDIE FM

SATURDAY 6/11
SHINDIE FM

SUNDAY 6/12
SHINDIE FM

ROOSEVELTS

THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
SHINDIE FM

TUESDAY 6/7
SHINDIE FM

WEDNESDAY 6/8
SHINDIE FM

THURSDAY 6/9
SHINDIE FM

FRIDAY 6/10
SHINDIE FM

SATURDAY 6/11
SHINDIE FM

SUNDAY 6/12
SHINDIE FM

BARBARY

THURSDAY 6/2
NO 50 PROBLEMS

FRIDAY 6/3
NO 50 PROBLEMS

SATURDAY 6/4
DJ DEEJAY

SUNDAY 6/5
SHINDIE FM

MONDAY 6/6
SHINDIE FM

TUESDAY 6/7
SHINDIE FM

WEDNESDAY 6/8
SHINDIE FM

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» Inside the Pint
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Details: In Philly, if you've sipped a genuine brew from a country like Denmark, Italy or Japan, chances are it won't get it into your head. The importer is teaming with RAB for a beer course and weekend around. It's proud beer, including vintage. Most include a bottle for the term and limited lunch shoulder 6-9 p.m., \$70. reservations by email only info@beerweekphilly.com

Bar: Milkshake (1711 Market St., 215-566-2711, milkshakebar.com)

Drink: Stone Beer (Stone Island, Co.)

Details: Celine Stone is hosting an adventuresome "week to end" and beer evening in West Philly — up Levittown. All drinkable lunch is temporary during the event and great, then move on to the main staff with brunch and lunch prices and roasted organic lunch with Stone's student IPA. 6 p.m. midnight, \$65.

Bar: South Philadelphia Top Room (1809 Mifflin St., 215-271-5772, southphiladelphiapubs.com)

Drink: Founders (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

Details: Chef Robert Schneider is putting out a first weekend around brunch day out of the Founders. Expect beer like A.E. Day IPA, the roasted Kentucky Benedict. Steak and something around "Cashew Experiment." Schneider treats possible dishes like salmon, port wine and on happy day, 7 p.m., \$90.

» THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Bar: Southwark (700 S. Fourth St., 215-226-1866, southwarkrestaurant.com)

Drink: Sly Fox (Hopland)

Details: Southwark — yes, it's a cocktail menu, but they know their beer better than most — is teaming up with Sly Fox and Country Time Farm: four courses, four beers, including a mix of the park's and in the grill paired with the brewery's Malbec. 7 p.m., \$65.

Bar: Dockside (3301 Lancaster St., 215-646-0160)

Drink: Cask Brewery (Pittsburgh)

Details: Dockside owner/Dad Don's Trondheim husband, Preston, will get to fly his chef's assistant for the meal. Cask's on buffet event. Get down on every check, satish. Dockside and other stand specialties, and walk it down with native Cask bottles. 5-8 p.m., \$17.

» SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Bar: Newthorn (795 S. 11th St., 215-627-5932, newthorn-calls.com)

Drink: Roundhouse (brewery)

Details: Four courses and five Euro beers are on the agenda for the "So: Thick Sound" music-dance like the Southwark in a play of different to produce routes (Thick/Spyglass House), a mixed beer list. \$100-630 p.m., \$65.

info@beerweekphilly.com

For more Philly Beer Week coverage and suggestions visit us at:



feeding frenzy

By Drew Lazar



> NOW SEATING

Fave | New on the eco-conscious block in Fairmount's Fave, from restaurateur Steven Nemeroff (Steven Brick Oven Pizzeria, Piermont Place), attorney David Osherson and manager Robert Amos. Repurposed wood and carpet, low-VOC paint and sustainable floor padding are but a few of the paper-lensed and spot-green hallmarks, a philosophy that influences Tia Bellie's food, as well. The chef's menu breaks down into "small," "small" and "small" sections, features a slew of vegetarian options. Graciously excellent meals, soy beans with fennel, red chili, cucumber and pea shoots, herbaceous tempeh, plus sustainably raised meat and fish (seasonal cod, duck confit with ginger shalots) are sold. Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 5-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 5 p.m.-mid.; Sat.-Sun. brunch cooking soon. 2025 Fairmount Ave., 267-609-2063, faverestaurant.com.

Wedge + Pig | Husband-and-wife Kirk Nelson and Lisa Bull have teamed up with Barbara Terpie (formerly of Flying Monkey Pastimes and Flying Monkey Diner) to open Wedge + Pig, a cheese shop and light-bite lunch spot just off Third and Race (formerly Old City Cheese). During the day, W+P offers hot and cold sandwiches (look out the "Eto-Pot," Quebec's cheddar, Moroccan, avocado and watermelon as a unique baguette) and a line of vegetarian milkshakes. At night, beginning on Aug. 4, Terpie will offer vertical-driven cheese plates designed for W+P. Hours, beginning this weekend: Thu.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sat., 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. 160 N. Third St., 267-609-3399, wedgeandpig.com.

Al Zaytoonah | Local restaurant vet Khaled Bergeel has opened his own place, Al Zaytoonah ("the olive"), at the Union Market. The Tunisian is offering an Eastern-Mediterranean comfort food-style menu — expect falafel, hummus, grape leaves, bamba, lamb shanks and kofta, plus house specialties like a Mediterranean burger and charred, grilled lamb chops. Al Zaytoonah should launch brunch in the coming months, too. Hours daily, 9 a.m.-10 p.m. 505 Christian St., 215-574-8349.

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23rd & South Streets

2223 Grace Ferry Avenue | 215-881-8568 | gracetavern.com

Check out
City Paper's

food blog

news

recipes

menu exclusives



+ citypaper.net/mealticket

Cedars

MIDDLE EASTERN & MEDITERRANEAN SINCE 1986

Mediterranean Cuisine Open 7 days a week

Hummus, Kibbeh, Kabob,
Grape Leaves, Falafel, and Seafood specialty

616 S. 2nd Street
215-925-4950

www.cedarsrestaurant.com

Haute Mexican? Haute Mexican!

After ten successful years in northeast Philadelphia, Paloma is serving to-die-for French-Mexican cuisine in Bella Vista.

- serving dinner only (Tuesday through Saturday)
- 3-course \$35 per bite (Sunday through Thursday)
- presently \$10.50
- recommended

chef-owner Adán Sotomayor
a great idea for the 2011 James Beard Foundation awards

Paloma
Bella Vista Cuisine

753 South 8th Street (corner of 8th & Fulton)
www.palomaphiladelphia.com
www.itsobedid.com/palomarestaurant
215-578-9300



NEW HAPPY HOUR SPECIALS!

Monday Thru Friday 4-7pm

- 12 OFF ALL DRAPES
- 12 WELL DRINKS
- 12 GLASSES OF WINE
- SPECIAL 12 DOMESTICS

is different from a special every day!

ALL NEW HAPPY HOUR APPETIZER MENU!

NEW LUNCH SPECIALS

Monday thru Friday 11:30 to 2:30

- 12 OFF ALL SANDWICHES
- 12 OFF ALL ENTREES

BRUNCH

SAT & SUN at 10AM - 3PM

637 N. 3rd Street - PHILADELPHIA
215-627-8711

